

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 00684 071552Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2916

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 0684

FOR EUR/WE GILBERT SHEINBAUM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VAN VOLLENHOVEN, PIETER)

SUBJECT: PIETER VAN VOLLENHOVEN'S VISIT TO ALASKA

REF: THE HAGUE 272

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING PRIORITY MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR
GOULD TO GOVERNOR EGAN OF ALASKA:

2. BEGIN MESSAGE: DEAR MR.GOVERNOR: I HAVE JUST RE-
RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MR. PIETER VAN VOLLENHOVEN, HUSBAND
OF PRINCESS MARGRIET OF THE NETHERLANDS, CONFIRMING HIS PLANS
TO VISIT ALASKA TO ATTEND THE WORLD CHAMPION SLED DOG RACING
IN ANCHORAGE. MR. VAN VOLLENHOVEN WILL BE BRINGING A
DIRECTOR AND A CREW OF TWO TO MAKE A 45- MINUTE DOCUMENTARY
FILM ON THE RACES FOR DUTCH TELEVISION. MR. VAN VOLLEN-
HOVEN AND HIS PARTY ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN ANCHORAGE
AT 1455 ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, VIA KLM 867. DEPENDING
ON LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES HE WILL RETURN TO THE NETHER-
LANDS ON FEBRUARY 18 OR 21. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT
PRINCESS MARGRIET WILL NOT JOIN HIM ON THIS FIRST TRIP
BUT SHE MAY ACCOMPANY HIM WHEN HE REVISITS ALASKA AT
A LATER DATE IN CONNECTION WITH A SECOND AND LONGER
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PAGE 02 THE HA 00684 071552Z

TV FILM ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE AND OTHER FEATURES

OF THE STATE OF ALASKA.

3. IN HIS LETTER TO ME MR. VAN VOLLENHOVEN SPEAKS ENTHUSIASTICALLY OF HIS VISIT DURING WHICH HE HOPES TO SEE SOMETHING OF ALASKA IN ADDITION TO THE SLED DOG RACING, INCLUDING IF POSSIBLE A VISIT TO ONE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS. HE ALSO PLANS TO VISIT ONE OR TWO HUSKY KENNELS WITH THE IDEA OF BUYING A HUSKY TO TAKE BACK TO THE NETHERLANDS.

4. THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MR. JOHN WERNER OF YOUR OFFICE ABOUT MR. VAN VOLLEHOVEN'S VISIT AND THE TV DOCUMENTARY. MR. WERNER WILL NOW BE ADVISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE FINAL DETAILS OF MR. VAN VOLLENHOVEN'S VISIT.

5. I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND MR. VAN VOLLENHOVEN TO YOU IN THE WARMEST TERMS. HE IS A VERY GOOD AND LOYAL FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HE HAS ALREADY VISITED TWICE AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND WITH RESULTS THAT WERE MUTUALLY SATISFYING TO HIMSELF AND THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES INVOLVED. I FULLY ENDORSE HIS HOPE THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA IS PREPARED TO ASSIST HIM IN MAKING THE TV FILM. THE FINISHED PRODUCT, WHICH WILL BE SEEN BY SEVERAL MILLION TV VIEWERS, WILL STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE STATE OF ALASKA AND VERY PROBABLY RESULT IN AN INCREASE OF DUTCH TOURISTS TO ALASKA. THE FILM SHOULD ALSO ENHANCE THE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE WHICH THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE DUTCH PEOPLE HOLD TOWARD THE UNITED STATES.

6. I WOULD PERSONALLY BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANY ASSISTANCE AND COURTESIES YOU AND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF CAN EXTEND TO MR. VAN VOLLENHOVEN. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FOR INSTANCE IF A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR OFFICE COULD MEET HIM ON ARRIVAL AND SERVE AS A CONTACT MAN IN SUPPORT OF THE FILM PROJECT. HIS VISIT HAS THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY AND WE WANT TO DO EVERYTHING

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 THE HA 00684 071552Z

POSSIBLE TO MAKE IT A COMPLETE SUCCESS. SINCERELY
KINGDON GOULD, JR. END MESSAGE
GOULD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALASKA.

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